Discussion
Proposed Data Products
2020 Census

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NAC Meeting November 8, 2019

Introduction

- First, I want to express my appreciation to Census and to Jason and Cynthia for sharing the current state of ongoing planning for data products and soliciting the input of the NAC.
- Goal of my remarks is to facilitate a discussion by the NAC as a whole, to maximize the benefit of our input into the decisions which are still to be made.
  - I am only an indirect user of detailed census data and I'm not expert on data privacy
  - I applaud the bureau's effort to seek guidance and input to address data needs
  - I want to help insure that needs of constituencies represented on NAC are articulated and addressed

Data Privacy vs. Publication/Detail of Data Tables

- Context: Trade off between protection of privacy of individual data and production of table tables and how detailed they may be

- This is the NAC's second round of discussion of this issue.

- Census has committed to a new approach to privacy protection (which will be discussed in another presentation)

- There is some controversy and push back about this approach

- I laud the Census Bureau for its efforts to be transparent about these decisions and the consequences for the release of statistical summaries of the data

Identifying data needs and priorities

- Census Bureau is seeking input into the trade-offs and loss of some data detail from users of Census data
- The NAC has a role to play in providing feedback
- My high level summary is:
  - To preserve privacy in the face of new technological capacities, certain detailed tabulations that have been produced for past censuses can no longer be released for 2020
  - My sense is that of likely greatest concern to the NAC are:
    - Population counts by detailed race and Hispanic origin groups, tribes, and population by household/family types
  - Census is trying to gain clarity on what are highest priority needs so that measures can be taken to accommodate these needs

Questions

- Presentation says:
  - "We are developing other formal privacy systems for protecting 2020 Census data products that include tabulations that provide counts of the population by detailed race and Hispanic origin groups, tribes, and the population by household/family types."
- Question: What are the "other formal privacy systems" that are being developed?

Questions (cont'd)

- Can you help us to understand what we will be losing under the new more rigorous data privacy protection system?
  - My sense is that the new system leads to the need to suppress tables that are based on detailed population characteristics and household/family types. In particular, population counts for detailed race/ethnicity/tribal categories and household composition tables will either not be produced or will only exist for large geographic areas.
  - Can you give us examples of tables have existed that are not currently planned?
  - Can you explain the issue of household/family type tabulations?
    - What does this refer to/include?

Response and Committee Discussion